

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /076 W
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R 181428Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1982
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3512

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN, ECON, EFIN, ETRD, PEPR, PINT, NU, CS, GT
SUBJ: COSTA RICAN CONCERN ABOUT EVENTS IN NICARAGUA

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 4728 (B) SAN JOSE 3178 (NOTAL)
(C) SAN JOSE 3214 (NOTAL) (D) SAN JOSE 3342 (NOTAL)

1. CURRENT GOCR PERCEPTIONS OF COSTA RICAN/NICARAGUAN RELATIONS
ARE OUTLINED IN REFTELS (B), (C), AND (D) WHICH ARE BEING
REPEATED TO AMEMBASSIES GUATEMALA, SAN SALVADOR AND TEGUCIGALPA.

2. EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN ANY EVIDENCE THAT BUSINESS SECTORS MIGHT
EXERT PRESSURE ON GOCR TO "TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST NICARAGUA".
WHILE COSTA RICAN BUSINESS SECTORS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN
OVER DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WITH GON OFFICIALS IN TRANSPORTING
GOODS THROUGH AND INTO NICARAGUA, THEY ALSO ARE AWARE OF
IMPORTANCE OF NICARAGUAN STABILITY FOR THEIR EXPORTS TO CACM
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY NICARAGUA WHICH ABSORBED 31 PERCENT
OF COSTA RICAN EXPORTS TO CACM IN 1977.

3. CONCERNING PUNTARENAS-ACAJUTLA BYPASS ROUTE MENTIONED IN
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PARA 4, REFTEL A, VICE MIN ECON INFORMED EMBOFF IN JULY THAT
CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF STABILITY IN NICARAGUA POSED SERIOUS
DANGER TO COSTA RICAN ECONOMIC WELFARE AND THUS GOCR WAS
INVESTIGATING ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO OTHER CACM MARKETS IN CASE
NICARAGUAN TRANSIT ROUTE BECAME UNAVOIDABLY CLOSED. EMBASSY
HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT MINECON ALTMANN IS PLANNING TO CONSULT
WITH OFFICIALS OF SEA LAND AND COORDINATED CARIBBEAN TRANSPORT

IN MIAMI RE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SERVICE FOR BYPASS ROUTE.
IN MENTIONING THIS INTEREST TO AMBASSADOR AUGUST 14, HIS COMMENTS
ON NICARAGUA WERE LIMITED TO COMPLAINING OF THE "BOTHER TO
OVERLAND SHIPMENTS WHEN TRUCKS ARE STOPPED AND SEARCHED EVERY
FEW MILES."
WEISSMAN

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NNN

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